



Director of
Central
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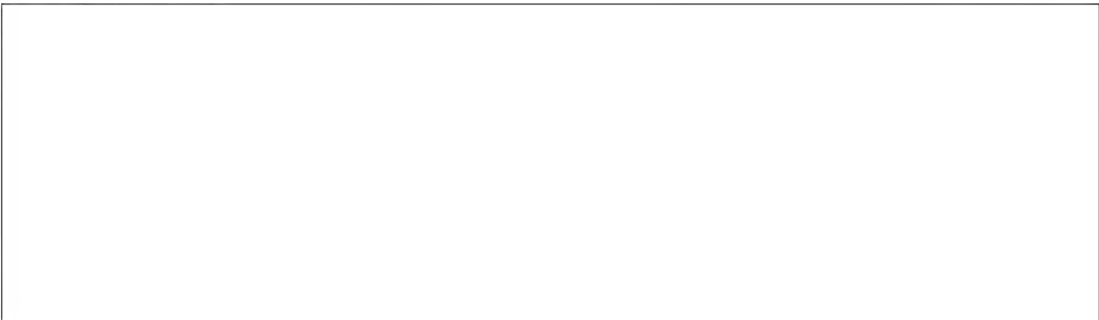
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BULGARIA-USSR: Strained Relations

Growing differences with Bulgaria over economic issues probably are causing some strains in Moscow's ties with its traditionally loyal ally, but the overall relationship appears solid. [redacted]

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A Bulgarian official has told a Western diplomat petroleum supplied by the USSR to Bulgaria had been cut by 10 percent. The US Embassy reports Bulgaria also is concerned over some aspects of CEMA integration that could conflict with domestic economic reforms. It has noted signs of Soviet pressure on Bulgaria, following the Warsaw Pact exercise there last fall, to upgrade its military preparedness. [redacted]

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Bulgarian-Soviet relations have reached their lowest point in recent years [redacted]

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1/4 [redacted] He says Moscow's lack of support last year for Bulgaria's 1,300th anniversary celebration angered party leader Zhivkov. The Soviets alleged the celebration overemphasized Bulgarian nationalism. [redacted]

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Comment: A major deterioration in overall bilateral relations remains highly unlikely. As the new Soviet leadership reviews its East European policy, Bulgaria will be hoping for assurances it will continue to occupy a privileged economic position. [redacted]

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At the same time Sofia would like to introduce some economic innovations, expand Western ties, and play down its image as a mere appendage of Moscow. Although there is no confirmation of a cut in oil deliveries, conflicts over economic issues are likely to intensify because of Soviet economic difficulties. [redacted]

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USSR: Jewish Emigration

Soviet authorities issued 160 exit visas to Soviet Jews in November. This brings the total thus far in 1982 to 2,459 as compared with 8,714 at the same time last year.

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$\frac{1}{2}$ Comment: The number of visas issued this year almost certainly will be less than 3,000, the lowest number since 1970. The new leadership is unlikely to ease Jewish emigration. Late last month Edgar Bronfman, the President of the World Jewish Congress, canceled a visit to Moscow after USA Institute Director Arbatov said he was "sick and tired" of discussing Jewish issues and would only discuss East-West relations. In addition, Foreign Minister Gromyko had declined to see Bronfman because such a meeting could be viewed as a conciliatory gesture to the US.

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